Fig. 2 is a listing of the full-length amino acid and nucleic acid sequences of a yneS polypeptide and gene from a *B. subtilis* strain (SEQ ID NOs:3 and 4, respectively). The complement of the nucleic acid sequence is set forth as SEQ ID NO: 12.--

In the claims:

Cancel claims 1 to 38.

Add claim 39 and 40 as follows:

-- 39. A composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and an antibacterial agent identified as a candidate antibacterial agent by a method comprising:

(a) contacting an S-yneS polypeptide with a test compound; and

(b) detecting an interaction of the test compound with the S-yneS polypeptide, wherein an interaction indicates that the test compound is a candidate antibacterial agent.

40. A composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and an antibacterial agent identified by a method comprising:

(a) contacting an S-yneS polypeptide with a test compound;

(b) detecting an interaction of the test compound with the S-yneS polypeptide, wherein an interaction indicates that the test compound is a candidate to be an antibacterial agent; and

(c) determining whether the candidate antibacterial agent inhibits growth of bacteria, relative to growth of bacteria cultured in the absence of the candidate antibacterial agent that interacts with the polypeptide, wherein inhibition of growth indicates that the candidate antibacterial agent is an antibacterial agent.--